

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of: John R. HURST and Scott G. HUTTON

Serial No: 09/301,811

Filed: April 28, 1999

For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DATABASE
SIMILARITY JOIN

Examiner: Unknown

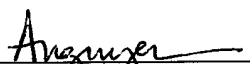
Group Art No: 2771

TC 2700 MAIL ROOM

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington D.C. 20231 on April 25, 2000.


Ann A. Nguyen

Preliminary Amendment

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

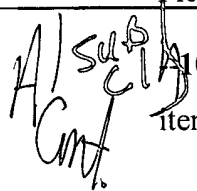
This is a Preliminary Amendment being submitted prior to any formal action in this case. Please enter the following amendments and add the following new claims:

I. Amendment To The Claims As Filed:

Please cancel, without prejudice, claims 2 through 9, inclusive.

II. New Claims:

Please add the following new claims numbered 10 through 36:

 10. A computer-based method for identifying, from a database comprising items, at least one item having at least one property similar to a target item, the method comprising:
identifying a target item; and

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01 FC:202
02 FC:203

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